

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 and the Abstract are herein amended.

The Abstract is amended for clarity.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Racich et al (U.S. 4,591,512). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention is directed towards producing a polarizing film, comprising a dyeing step and a stretching step and a plurality of films being dipped simultaneously into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other. Each of the films is played out from a corresponding raw film respectively.

Racich fails to disclose a plurality of films simultaneously being dipped into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other. Since Racich does not disclose all of the embodiments of the claimed method and apparatus, Racich cannot render the presently claimed method and apparatus anticipated.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Racich et al (U.S. 4,591,512). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 2 sets forth that the number of films is 2 to 4. Racich fails to disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for a plurality of films simultaneously being dipped into at least

one processing liquid without contacting each other. Racich does not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for 2 to 4 films simultaneously being dipped into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other.

Racich does not render the presently claimed method and apparatus obvious.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Racich et al (U.S. 4,591,512) in view of Kondo et al (U.S. 2002/0182427 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kondo fails to provide the teachings which Racich lacks, as discussed above. Kondo discloses a manufacturing method for oriented film polarizing film, polarizing plate and visual displays.

However, Kondo does not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for a plurality of films simultaneously being dipped into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other, which is an embodiment of the presently claimed method.

Racich in view of Kondo does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Racich et al, (U.S. 4,591,512) in view of Nomura et al (U.S. 4,324,480). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The presently claimed invention is directed towards producing a polarizing film, comprising a dyeing step and a stretching step and a plurality of films being dipped simultaneously into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other. Each of the films is played out from a corresponding raw film respectively.

Racich does not render the presently claimed invention anticipated or obvious. The deficiencies of Racich are not overcome by the disclosure of Nomura.

Nomura discloses an automatic film feeder for an automatic developer. Nomura is related to a technique of developing films. However, the presently claimed invention is related to producing polarizing film. Applicants respectfully hold that it is difficult to combine the disclosure of Nomura with the other cited reference, Racich.

Furthermore, the films used in the automatic film feeder of Nomura are sheets, and are supplied from raw film. An embodiment of the presently claimed invention is a plurality of films, each of which is supplied from a corresponding raw film respectively.

Thus, the combined reading of Racich in view of Nomura fails to render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Racich et al (U.S. 4,591,512) in view of Nomura et al (U.S. 4,324,480) as applied to claims 1-2, 4 and 10-12, and further in view of Kondo et al (U.S. 2002/0182427 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Racich in view of Kondo, as discussed above, are not overcome by the disclosure of Nomura.

Neither Racich nor Kondo discloses, teaches, suggest or provide any reason for a plurality of films simultaneously being dipped into at least one processing liquid without contacting each other.

Nomura discloses an automatic film feeder for an automatic developer. Nomura is related to a technique of developing films. However, the presently claimed invention is related to producing a polarizing film. Applicants respectfully hold that it is difficult to combine the disclosure of Nomura with the other cited references, Racich and Kondo.

Furthermore, the films used in the automatic film feeder of Nomura are sheets, and are not played out from raw film. An embodiment of the presently claimed invention is a plurality of films, each of which is played out from a corresponding raw film respectively.

The combined reading of Racich, Kondo and Nomura fails to render the presently claimed invention obvious.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

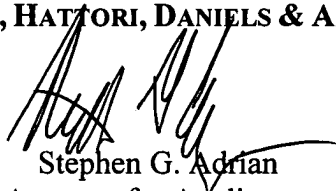
Application No.: 10/573,646
Art Unit: 2872

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062338

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Adrian', is written over the printed name.

Stephen G. Adrian
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,878
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

SGA/BKM/adp